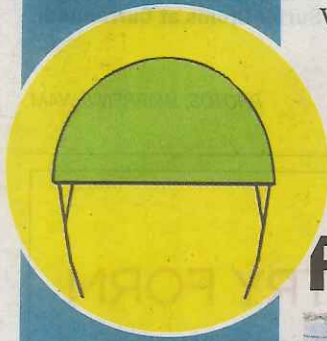


Readers' stories

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OUR LITTLE CHAMPS



Our Little Champions - showcasing up-and-coming sports stars and any kid striving to be the best they can be. Community Engagement Editor Shirley Sinclair wants to hear about your stories and see your photos. Email yourstory@scnews.com.au or go to www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/your-story and push the "submit your story" button.

STARS OF THE FUTURE COMPETE IN WAHU SURFER GROMS COMPS ON THE SUNSHINE COAST



PUTTING ON A SHOW: Age was no barrier to great surfing skills at the Wahu Surfer Groms Comps as Ethan Huxtable shows.

PHOTO: DEV LAHEY / SURFING QUEENSLAND

Groms rip it up in style for contest

SIX individual champions were crowned at the finals day of the Wahu Surfer Groms Comps on the weekend on the Sunshine Coast.

Grommets age groups varied from the crowd favourite micro Under 8 mixed division through to the blue-riband Under 14s for event five of the 10-event series.

In the first final of the day, Harry O'Brien (Skennars Head, NSW) put on an excellent display of surfing from start to finish locking in a two-wave combined heat total of 15.33 points (out of a possible 20 points) granting him bragging rights in the Under 10 boys' division.

Haylie Powell (Mooloolah Valley, Qld) made light work of her Under 10 girls' final locking in an early score of eight points (out of a possible 10 points) which proved too big a task for her fellow competitors to

overcome, relegating Jordy Halford (Currumbin Waters, Qld), Makeisha Glowaski (Burleigh Waters, Qld) and Jorja Forster (Pacific Paradise, Qld) respectively into the minor placings.

Xavier Huxtable (Jan Juc, Vic) proved too strong in the Under 14 boys' final where he locked in two early scores (14.17 out of a possible 20 points) to leave his competition playing catch-up for the remainder of the final.

A late attack by Xavier's brother Ethan Huxtable was not enough to take the top spot but did make it a first and second finish for the two brothers.

Joining Xavier on the winners' podium was Zahli Kelly (Wooloowin, Qld) who claimed victory in the prestigious Under 14 girls' final.

Kelly, who is the current Australian junior champion, caught a late flurry of waves

granting her the needed scores to narrowly defeat Ellia Smith (Coolool Beach, Qld), Nyxie Ryan (Lennox head, NSW) and Holly Williams (Buddina, QLD) respectively.

As an added bonus, both Xavier and Zahli have been invite to attend an expenses-paid, three-day Wahu Surf Camp at the Hurley Surfing Australia High Performance Centre.

In one of the most anticipated finals of the day, Ethan Huxtable made it the Huxtable double in both the Under 14 boys' and Under 12 boys' finals.

Ethan secured an early single wave score (8.5 out of a possible 10 points) in the Under 12 boys, setting himself up to claim victory and etch his name on the winner's trophy.

In the Under 12 girls' final, Lilliana Bowrey's (Tewantin,

Qld) wave selection proved too strong for Lilly O'Sullivan (Currumbin Waters, Qld), Lilliana Swan (Mountain Creek, Qld) and Sophie Drew (Bokarina, Qld) respectively.

The Under 8 mixed division showed that the future of Australian surfing is in good hands with Sunshine Coast local Mitchell Peterson taking top honours. The series is one of the major stepping stones in the development of young Australian surfers.

The 10-event program caters for Under 8 through to Under 14 with events in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. The Under 8 is a mixed division with parent assists, while competition is held in boys and girls in the Under 10 (optional parent assist), Under 12 and Under 14 divisions.



Tewantin's Lilliana Bowrey.



Kawana boardrider Kasey Lane.



Haylie Powell is shoulder-chaired from the beach.



Cameron Macdougall.



Xavier Huxtable.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED AND DEV LAHEY / SURFING QUEENSLAND

Pool life saving team members honoured with selection



Laura Campbell and Tom Reid. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

THREE members of the Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Pool Life Saving Team have been selected in the Queensland Royal Life Saving Squad.

The squad will compete at the 2016 Australian Pool Life Saving Championships from January 14-16 on the Gold Coast. During the off season, Cassie Lee, Dan O'Meally and Tom Reid all took part in

a Pool Lifesaving Development Day and then competed at the Queensland Pool Life Saving Short Championships, taking home a number of medals each from the championship. They went on to compete at the Queensland Pool Life Saving Championships leading to selection in the state squad.

Teacher-in-charge of pool life saving at the school Jean-

nie Baxter-Reid is proud of these students.

"They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year," she said.

"While the students achieved brilliant results in the pool, they are to be commended on their commitment and are without doubt outstanding ambassadors for the sport. Grammar's Pool life Saving Captain, Laura

Campbell and Tom Reid have gone above and beyond in their chosen sport and were even invited to participate in a video being filmed for a new Royal Life Saving Society DVD to encourage more schools to become involved in the school competition."

The school was awarded the Murray Hine Trophy for the highest participation in a co-educational school in 2015.

MONDAY

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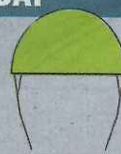
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